

**Interregional Preparatory Meeting for SIDS
30 August -1 September 2023
Praia, Cabo Verde**

PLENARY

**Identifying Critical Priorities for SIDS and
Examining Region Specific Priorities
30 August 2023, 3:50 PM – 5:00 PM**

Background Note

Executive Summary

This document was prepared by the Secretariat. It synthesizes common priorities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and identifies region-specific ones, based on the Outcome Documents of their respective Regional Preparatory Meetings for the 4th International Conference on SIDS (SIDS4). It is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather focuses on key areas of convergence, new and emerging priorities which could form the basis of an ambitious, action-oriented group position for SIDS4.

Common Priorities

The following priorities were identified by all three SIDS regions:

Climate change

- Improved access and mobilization of climate financing, including through creation of dedicated windows for SIDS under climate financing mechanisms.
- Implementation of the COP26 commitment to double adaptation finance from 2019 levels by 2025.
- Operationalization and capitalization of the Loss and Damage Fund.
- Development of simplified access procedures for SIDS for the Green Climate Fund.

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- Leverage local and traditional knowledge and practices in climate adaptation measures, including biodiversity and nature-based solutions.

Access to concessional finance

- Reform of international financial architecture to strengthen support for SIDS, including governance of international financial institutions and establishment of multilateral sovereign debt mechanism.
- Adoption and operationalization of the Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI), including by the Multilateral Development Banks, supported by an interim Secretariat.
- Use of innovative solutions to address the high levels of debt in SIDS, including establishment of a dedicated debt relief mechanism for SIDS.

Environmental resilience

- Support for development of National Capital Accounting Frameworks to assess contribution of natural ecosystems to SIDS economies.
- Support to control the source of marine plastic pollution, develop waste management systems and country specific strategies.
- International support to build capacity to implement the provisions of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement.
- Identification of financing and capacity gaps and development of national finance plans to advance implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.
- Improve water and sanitation infrastructure. Develop human and institutional capacities for management of water resources.

Disaster Risk Reduction

- Adoption of disaster risk informed approaches to development.
- Support development of national DRR financing strategies and provide policy, legislative and capacity support for financing instruments.
- Facilitate implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies for SIDS.

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Renewable energy

- Up-scale investment in renewable energy in SIDS and development of SIDS-specific technologies for renewable energy deployment.
- Increase access to finance to support use and adoption of renewable energy by SIDS.

Resilience and sustainability

- Address the migration of skilled personnel through human resource development.
- Develop and scale-up sustainable transport infrastructure for land, marine and air.
- Foster economic restructuring and diversification to reduce systemic and structural vulnerability to internal and external shocks, including investing in skills, with a focus on youth, digital and new technologies.
- Pursue opportunities in the blue economy, develop frameworks and enabling structures.
- Implement measures to address non-communicable diseases.
- Build resilience of societies through social protection.
- Advance gender equality and women's economic empowerment
- Professionalisation of the cultural sector, through establishment of a SIDS repository of cultural identity, knowledge and traditions, reinforcing regional collaboration and mutual understanding.
- Promote resilient and sustainable tourism, improve tourism infrastructure.

Means of implementation

- Build capacity to access and utilise new and emerging technology, including A.I.
- Bridge digital divides, provide universal and affordable access to the internet by 2030 and enhance digital access and infrastructure connectivity.
- Increase access to affordable and accessible digital technologies and increase digital literacy.
- Develop new and innovative partnerships to improve access to technology transfer and improve trade, including SIDS-SIDS.
- Promote digitalization of governance and public services.

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Partnerships

- Enhance and further develop strategic partnerships, including North-South, South-South and SIDS-SIDS.
- Improve aid effectiveness, donor coordination and development cooperation for SIDS.
- Role of private sector in mobilizing financial resources, or strengthening public-private partnerships

Institutional capacity

- Enhance data management capacities, including use of technology for data collection.
- Improved regional coordination in the collection, verification and sharing of data across various platforms.
- Coordinate and consolidate data platforms. Establish a data hub at SIDS4, including capacity building at national and regional levels.

Monitoring and evaluation

- Development of a monitoring and evaluation platform to support implementation of the next SIDS Programme of Action.

Regional coordination

- Establishment of regional coordination mechanisms to maintain international focus on SIDS issues. (The Caribbean proposed a regional platform to maintain international focus on Caribbean SIDS issues, with a focus on resource mobilization, while AIS proposed a coordination mechanism to support implementation of the SAMOA Pathway).

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Region specific priorities

In addition to the common priorities outlined above, each region identified specific priorities relevant to its regional context.

AIS

- Explore establishment of a Technology Bank for AIS SIDS to foster SIDS-SIDS cooperation.
- Establishment of a coordination mechanism to support implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in AIS.
- Investment in the digital economy, including an enabling environment to boost e-commerce to overcome remoteness and structural solutions.
- Establishment of a platform to narrow digital divide affecting SIDS.
- Establishment of an AIS regional pharmaceutical procurement centre.
- Revitalisation of the SIDS University Consortium and Program for Youth in alignment with the SAMOA Pathway to develop enhanced educational opportunities for young people.
- Address public health, safety and social problems resulting from substance abuse, including through the setting up of a dedicated observatory on substance abuse

Caribbean

- Promotion of the Bridgetown Initiative to reform the global financial system.
- Development of a regional platform to maintain international focus on Caribbean SIDS issues, with a focus on resource mobilization.
- Establishment of a Biennial Caribbean SIDS Partnership Forum.
- Biennial Davos-style dialogues with partners and stakeholders to align SIDS4 agenda with changing global and regional contexts.
- Increased collaboration and resource mobilization to support sargassum seaweed management.
- Support for addressing national and regional security concerns including in relation to the illicit drug trade and small and light weapons. Reestablishment of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in the Caribbean.
- Request the UN Secretary-General to convene a high-level meeting during SIDS4 with IFIs, development banks and major donors.

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Pacific

- Support to decrease the region's heavy reliance on fossil fuels.
- Establishment of a global alliance to negotiate a Non-Proliferation Treaty to govern the end of fossil fuel expansion and govern a just transition.
- Conservation of marine biodiversity, improved access to finance and technical resources for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity.
- Support to help make remittance flows more structured and predictable.
- Support for reviewing and revamping education delivery models.
- Biennial Pacific regional Multistakeholder Partnership Dialogue.